

ENGLISH & COMMUNICATION



The Argo Community High School English & Communication Department equips students with writing, communication, critical thinking, and literacy skills for success at Argo High School, college, and/or career.

Suggested English & Communication Sequence:

LEVEL	GRADE 9	GRADE 10	GRADE 11	GRADE 12
College Prep 1	Literacy & Composition*	Writing 1* (1st Semester) & English 1* (2nd Semester)	English 2 (1st Semester) & Speech & Communication* (2nd Semester)	- English 3 - English 4 - AP English Language & Composition* - College Reading & Writing**
College Prep 2	Writing 1* (1st Semester) & English 1* (2nd Semester)	English 2 (1st Semester) & Speech & Communication (2nd Semester)	English 3	- English 4 (year-long) - Dual Credit College Writing* (semester) - Dual Credit Public Speaking* (semester) - AP English Language & Composition* (year-long) - College Reading & Writing** (year-long)
Honors	Honors Writing 1* (1st Semester) & Honors English 1* (2nd Semester)	Honors English 2* (1st Semester) & Honors Speech & Communication* (2nd Semester)	AP English Language & Composition	- AP English Literature & Composition - Dual Credit College Writing* (semester) - Dual Credit Public Speaking* (semester)

*This course satisfies the ISBE graduation requirement for "Intensive Writing"

**This course satisfies the PWR Act Statewide Transitional English Course Parameters and Competencies



LEVEL 1

Foundation Level

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:

LITERACY & COMPOSITION

Year: 9 | Credit: 1

EN050

Literacy & Composition 1 builds the foundational writing, reading, and speaking skills that are needed to be successful in future Argo courses, including future English classes. Literacy and Composition addresses the same skills as the Writing 1 and English 1 curriculum using high-interest young adult fiction and nonfiction literature which meets the standards of department-reviewed text complexity, and which is at a reading level appropriate for the demonstrated reading level of student placed in this class. This course is co-taught and uses differentiation to support all students.

This course satisfies 1 of the ISBE 2-year graduation requirement for "Intensive Writing."

Prerequisite: Placement is made by Humanities Division Chair

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:

ENGLISH 1

Year: 9, 10 | Credit: .5 (2nd semester)

EN300

This semester course focuses on ways to **talk and write about literature**. The course teaches students ways to examine literature by looking at Character, Setting, and Plot structure. In addition, students are asked to make connections to literature and demonstrate those connections through reflection writing and small group discussion. The course asks students to build work knowledge and grammar concepts that will benefit them in their goal to meet state standards. The course continues to encourage students to engage in the practice of writing and using mentor texts and modelling to develop their own writing about literature.

This course satisfies .5 of the ISBE 2-year graduation requirement for "Intensive Writing."

WRITING 1

Year: 9, 10 | Credit: .5 (1st semester)

EN305

This composition course will use a writing workshop model to teach students how to write to be successful in their other courses and future careers. Students will learn how to write clear and effective expository and persuasive prose with emphasis on organization, clarity, and coherence. Students will learn the basics of research with a focus on accessing and analyzing information to judge the trustworthiness of the source and information. Students will work with sentence structure and paragraph structure while also focusing on multi-paragraph essays and the process of creating through drafts. Types of writing may include the following: process writing, review, problem/solution, research papers, and emails. Students will read published examples of writing and other nonfiction to examine how others craft their writing. Emphasis will be on research as a writer. Students will also build work knowledge through dedicated vocabulary practice and assessment.

This course satisfies .5 of the ISBE 2-year graduation requirement for "Intensive Writing."

This course satisfies .5 of the ISBE 1-year graduation requirement for "Computer Literacy." (PA101-0654)



HONORS ENGLISH 1

Year: 9 | Credit: .5 (2nd Semester)

EN900

This semester course focuses on ways to **talk and write about literature**. The course teaches students ways to examine literature by looking at Character, Setting, and Plot structure. In addition, students are asked to make connections to literature and demonstrate those connections through reflection writing and small group discussions. The course asks students to build work knowledge and grammar concepts that will benefit them in their goal to meet state standards. The course continues to encourage students to engage in the practice of writing and using mentor texts and modelling to develop their own writing about literature. This course offers more complex literature and faster pace than English 1. Students will also build word knowledge through dedicated vocabulary practice and assessment.

Course has +.5 GPA weight for Honors

This course satisfies .5 of the ISBE 2-year graduation requirement for "Intensive Writing."

HONORS WRITING 1

Year: 9 | Credit: .5 (1st Semester)

EN905

This composition course will use a writing workshop model to teach students how to write to be successful in their other courses and future careers. Students will learn how to write clear and effective expository and persuasive prose with emphasis on organization, clarity, and coherence. Students will learn the basics of research with a focus on accessing and analyzing information to judge the trustworthiness of the source and information. Students will work with sentence structure and paragraph structure while also focusing on multi-paragraph essays and the process of creating through drafts. Types of writing may include the following: process writing, review, problem/solution, research papers, and emails. Students will read published examples of writing and other nonfiction to examine how others craft their writing. Emphasis will be on research and reading as a writer. Students will also build word knowledge through dedicated vocabulary practice and assessment.

The course has +.5 GPA weight for Honors

This course satisfies .5 of the ISBE 2-year graduation requirement for "Intensive Writing."

This course satisfies .5 of the ISBE 1-year graduation requirement for "Computer Literacy." (PA101-0654)



LEVEL 2

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:

ENGLISH 2

Year: 10, 11 | Credit: .5 (1st semester)

EN310

This course builds on the methods for **talking and writing about literature** introduced in English 1. This course focuses on language and conventions of genre. This course provides students with additional ways to talk and write about imaginative writing. In addition, the course asks students to reflect and make connections to stories through talking and writing. This course asks students to continue to build word knowledge and grammar concepts that will benefit them in their goal to meet state standards. Students will also build word knowledge through dedicated vocabulary practice and assessment.

This course satisfies .5 of the ISBE 2-year graduation requirement for "Intensive Writing."

HONORS ENGLISH 2

Year: 10 | Credit: .5 (1st semester)

EN910

This course builds on the methods for talking and writing about literature introduced in English 1. This course focuses on language and conventions of genre. This course provides students with additional ways to talk and write about imaginative writing. In addition, the course asks students to reflect and make connections to stories through talking and writing. This course asks students to continue to build work knowledge and grammar concepts that will benefit them in their goal to meet state standards. Students will also build word knowledge through dedicated vocabulary practice and assessment.

Course has +.5 GPA weight for Honors

This course satisfies .5 of the ISBE 2-year graduation requirement for "Intensive Writing."

Prerequisite: Humanities Division Chair approval

SPEECH & COMMUNICATION

Year: 10, 11 | Credit: .5 (2nd semester)

EN315

This course will continue to develop students as writers in all areas while focusing on large group and small group speaking. The course will continue to work on research skills started in Writing 1. Students will deliver focused and coherent speeches that convey clear messages, using non-verbal communication (gestures, tone). The course focuses on the importance of audience in communicating through writing or speaking and the choices the writer or speaker can make to communicate effectively. This course also extends computer literacy and media literacy that students learned in Writing 1. In this course, students will research, write, and deliver speeches to their classmates. They will also engage in small group discussions. This course will focus on the job interview as one of the interpersonal communication units. Students will continue to build word knowledge through dedicated vocabulary practice and assessment.

This course satisfies .5 of the ISBE 2-year graduation requirement for "Intensive Writing."

This course satisfies the ISBE "Media Literacy" requirement. (PA102-0055)



HONORS SPEECH & COMMUNICATION

Year: 10, 11 | Credit: .5 (2nd semester)

EN915

This course will continue to develop students as writers in all areas while focusing on large group and small group speaking. The course will continue to work on research skills started in Writing 1. Students will deliver focused and coherent speeches that convey clear messages, using non-verbal communication (gestures, tone). The course focuses on the importance of audience in communicating through writing or speaking and the choices the writer or speaker can make to communicate effectively. This course also extends computer literacy and media literacy that students learned in Writing 1. In this course, students will research, write, and deliver speeches to their classmates. They will also engage in small group discussions. This course will focus on the job interview as one of the interpersonal communication units. Students will continue to build word knowledge through dedicated vocabulary practice and assessment. Students in Honors Speech & Communication will be responsible for additional readings and writing assignments beyond those required in Speech & Communication.

This course satisfies .5 of the ISBE 2-year graduation requirement for "Intensive Writing."

This course satisfies .5 of the ISBE 1-year requirement for "Computer Literacy." (PA101-0654)

This course satisfies the ISBE "Media Literacy" requirement. (PA102-0055)

LEVEL 3

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:

AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE & COMPOSITION

Year: 11, 12 | Credit: 1

EN950

Students in this introductory college-level course read and carefully analyze a broad and challenging range of nonfiction prose selections, deepening their awareness of rhetoric and how language works. Through close reading and frequent writing, students develop their ability to work with language and text with a greater awareness of purpose and strategy, while strengthening their own composing abilities. Course readings feature expository, analytical, personal, and argumentative texts from a variety of authors and historical contexts. Students examine and work with essays, letters, speeches, images, and imaginative literature. Summer reading and writing are required. Students prepare for the AP English Language and Composition Exam and may be granted advanced placement, college credit, or both as a result of satisfactory performance.

Course has +1.0 GPA weight for AP

This course satisfies 1 of the ISBE 2-year graduation requirement for "Intensive Writing."

Prerequisite: Humanities Division Chair approval



ENGLISH 3

Year: 11, 12 | Credit: 1

EN320

This course focuses on literature and composition and continues to build on the literacy skills developed in English I and II. The English III curriculum focuses on the analysis of complex texts addressing a variety of American themes. While much of the writing in the course focuses on literary analysis, students will also produce a research paper. In addition, students will develop a college personal essay. Through these writing tasks, students will work to develop unique rhetorical approaches and authentic voices while continuing to build towards a more mature writing style. Students will continue to build deeper and more complex word knowledge through dedicated vocabulary practice and assessment. Students in English 3 will also prepare for the Reading and English sections of the ACT or the EBRW section of the SAT.

SENIOR YEAR

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:

AP ENGLISH LITERATURE & COMPOSITION

Year: 12 | Credit: 1 (year-long)

EN990

This course is designed for seniors who want to challenge themselves with college-level coursework. Students in AP English Language and Composition are highly encouraged to enroll in this class. Topics of study include epic and lyric poetry, traditional and contemporary fiction, and drama. Essay writing focuses on literary analysis using published critical interpretations. Extended research projects involve independent reading coupled with oral presentations. Students will prepare for the AP English Literature and Composition Exam (offered in the spring of each year).

Course has +1.0 GPA for AP course

This course satisfies 1 of the ISBE 2-year graduation requirement for "intensive writing."

Prerequisite: Humanities Division Chair approval

DUAL CREDIT COLLEGE WRITING

Year: 12 | Credit: .5 (English; semester)

EN801

This course is a college dual credit course through one of our partner universities (Eastern Illinois University). The course is intended for college-bound seniors ready to challenge themselves with college coursework. The focus is on the reading, writing, and critical thinking skills required in college. Emphasis is on written assignments that require synthesis, analysis, and arguments based on sources.

This course has +.5 GPA weight for Honors

This course satisfies .5 of the ISBE 2-year graduation requirement for "Intensive Writing."

Prerequisites: 2.7 overall GPA. Completion of this course with a C or higher will qualify for dual credit.



DUAL CREDIT PUBLIC SPEAKING

Year: 12 | Credit: .5 (English; semester)

EN851

This course is a college dual credit course through Indiana University. The course is intended for college-bound seniors ready to challenge themselves with college coursework. Upon completion of this course, students will discover the power of speech to motivate, clarify, inspire, speak truth to power, expose fallacies and presumptions, and work through problems collectively. Students will explore the close relationship of logic, ethics, and emotion, and come to understand speech's role in cultivating our capacity for deliberative wisdom, our membership in community, and our humanity.

This course has +.5 GPA weight for Honors

This course satisfies .5 of the ISBE 2-year graduation requirement for "Intensive Writing."

Pre-requisites: 2.7 overall GPA. Completion of this course with a C or higher will qualify for dual credit at Indiana University (SPCH S121 Public Speaking).

ENGLISH 4

Year: 12 | Credit: 1 (English)

EN400

This course offers students an exploration of the world of English Language Arts, emphasizing the skills of writing and talking in an analytical and argumentative manner. This course will focus on communication skills. The course will help students engage meaningfully with a diverse selection of texts and contexts. From multicultural literature to the visual storytelling techniques of film, from professional communication to argumentative writing, students will be challenged to think critically, express themselves effectively, and interact with content in a way that is reflective and analytical. Students will leave the course as well-rounded communicators, ready to engage with the world around them with confidence and clarity. Students will also build word knowledge through dedicated vocabulary practice and assessment.

This course satisfies 1 of the 2-year graduation requirements for "Intensive Writing."

COLLEGE READING & WRITING

Year: 12 | Credit: 1 (year-long)

EN200

The course is designed to bridge the gap for students as they transition to college and career readiness. This course will teach students the reading and writing skills to be successful at college or in their career paths. The course will focus on the following: reading (active reading strategies, summarization of a text, analysis and interpretation of texts), writing (identification of and writing processes based on audience, purpose and task, incorporation and documentation of relevant information), and critical thinking and analysis (credibility and reliability of evidence, engagement with evidence, information literacy skills). Upon completion students should be able to adapt their approaches and strategies as they engage in reading and writing tasks; analyze, evaluate, and synthesize while reading and writing; and demonstrate information literacy skills as an engaged reader and as a contributing writer. This course will mostly follow the semester curriculum of the Dual Credit Writing class, except that it will be stretched through a year-long course. Some students may be able to earn dual credit at the end of the 2nd semester (Eastern Illinois University). Other students may be able to use this class to guarantee placement in COM101 at MVCC or other Illinois community colleges.

This course satisfies 1 of the ISBE 2 year graduation requirements for "Intensive Writing."

This course satisfies the PWR Act Statewide Transitional English Course Parameters and Competencies.

Prerequisites: 3 English credits and Humanities Division Chair approval.



ENGLISH ELECTIVES

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:

CREATIVE WRITING

Year: 9, 10, 11, 12 | Credit: .5 (elective; semester)

EN381

This course does not fulfill an English requirement but earns elective credit. Creative Writing is intended for the advanced writer who has already mastered basic writing skill. Students in this class will read about the creative writing processes of accomplished writers and evaluate those processes for application in their own writing. Students will use a study of literary forms to create their own original essays, works of narrative fiction and non-fiction, poetry, and more.

This course does not fulfill an English requirement but does earn elective credit.

JOURNALISM

Year: 9, 10, 11, 12 | Credit: .5 (elective)

EN372 | EN372H – Honors | Course may be repeated or taken both semesters

This course teaches practical writing for publication. The focus of the course is on nonfiction writing for print and digital publication. Students will learn how to report objectively, conduct interviews, compose podcasts, and more. Different genres of writing will be covered, such as commentary, reviews, humor writing, interviews, sports writing, and more. The course will also cover writing and producing podcasts. The students will work with the teacher to publish material in the Argo Maroon Newspaper.

This course does not fulfill an English requirement but does earn elective credit.

ADVANCED JOURNALISM

Year: 9, 10, 11, 12 | Credit: .5 (elective)

EN385 | EN385H – Honors

This course teaches practical writing for publication. The focus of the course is nonfiction writing for print and digital publication. This course looks at leadership roles in the news story process. This course looks at story development, story assignment, fact checking, editing, and more. This course offers continued study of careers in journalism.

This course does not fulfill an English requirement but does earn elective credit.

THEATRE ARTS

Year: 9, 10, 11, 12 | Credit: 1 (elective)

TH360 | TH360H – Honors

This course does not fulfill an English requirement but does earn a fine arts credit or elective credit. It is designed as an introduction to theater and acting. After school participation is highly suggested. By the end of this course, students will be able to demonstrate proper acting techniques, the ability to critique skits and plays, an understanding of basic stage design, and increased public speaking skills.

This course does not fulfill an English requirement but does earn elective credit.

Students electing to take the honors credit will be expected to do an extra honors assignment per unit.



ADVANCED THEATRE ARTS

Year: 10, 11, 12 | Credit: 1 (elective)

TH660 | TH660H – Honors

This course does not fulfill an English requirement but earns elective credit or fine arts credit. It is designed for those students who have successfully completed Theatre Arts and wish to continue their studies in this area. Students in this class will demonstrate proper acting techniques, the ability to critique plays and skits, diverse public speaking skills, and an understanding of public performance. In addition, students will be able to work stage lights, build sets, apply make-up and discuss performance production issues.

This course does not fulfill an English requirement but does earn elective credit.

Students electing to take the honors credit will be expected to do an extra honors assignment per unit.

Prerequisite: Humanities Division Chair approval required.